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February 14, 1981

SITUATION REPORTS

POLAND

The government and Solidarity yesterday continued to show signs of willingness to negotiate.

Deputy Premier Rakowski, chief government representative on the new government-union commission, has scheduled a meeting today with Solidarity leader Walesa. Some reports claim the talks will focus on farmers' demands for a union and that representatives of Rural Solidarity may be present.

Prime Minister Jaruzelski yesterday held a news conference to demonstrate a new, more open style of government. The regime--responding to a request from Walesa--also released two Solidarity officials who had been detained by police in Radom.

Meanwhile, Solidarity's national leadership apparently has decided to take firmer control over its organizational structure. The National Commission decided at its session on Thursday to draft an "action program" and elected a new 11-man committee that will make unspecified "complex, unpopular decisions."

The union leadership said it is ready to negotiate immediately with the government but plans to give a definitive response to Jaruzelski's proposed strike moratorium when it meets next Wednesday. Solidarity said it would not conduct strikes in support of farmers, but it would support them through propaganda lobbying efforts.

Military Activity

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In East Germany, the media are giving major coverage to previously unannounced joint maneuvers that the East Germans claim took place on Thursday in the southern part of the country near the Polish border. The reports draw attention to an exercise to build a pontoon bridge across a river and claim that East German reserves were mobilized to join with Soviet troops. Soviet and East German units are conducting similar but separate operations in other areas of East Germany, but there is no confirmation of the East German reports. [REDACTED]

The official statement that the war games demonstrated the readiness of the troops "to follow orders . . . to defend the achievements of socialism" is aimed at Poland. This new threat will underscore the possibility of Warsaw Pact intervention should Solidarity resist any new measures by the Jaruzelski government. [REDACTED]